

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-19, 21-27, 29-35, 38 and 39 are pending in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-11, 17-19, 21-26, 30-31, 33-34 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,304,347 (Beine). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the pending claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, independent Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to Claims 12 and 28, respectively. In addition, applicant notes that Claims 36 and 37 have been cancelled in lieu of new Claims 38 and 39 which correspond to objected to Claims 13 and 27. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicates that Claims 14, 15, 29 and 35 are allowable. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowable claims.

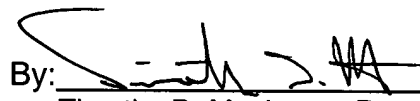
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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